

XS  
H69  
v. 20  
#1

# SHORTIA

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
WESTERN CAROLINA BOTANICAL CLUB

SPRING 1998

LIBRARY

MAR 2 - 1998

NEW YORK  
BOTANICAL GARDEN



ELTON and ALINE HANSENS  
Editors

25

## WESTERN CAROLINA BOTANICAL CLUB - 1998

President:	Don Herrman	Recorder:	Erika Parmi
Vice-President:	Elaine Montgomery	Recorder:	Anne Ulinski
Secretary:	Peggy Ellis	Historian:	Anne Matthes
Treasurer:	Rachel Conway		

FROM THE PRESIDENT.....DON HERRMAN

Random thoughts about our 25th Anniversary Meeting: I do not want to hear any more about rain and the flu, they do cut into our attendance. But we had a good meeting with great food and socializing. It was good to see people volunteering for the offices of Secretary, Recorder, and Historian. At the end of the meeting there was a discussion and exchange of ideas that demonstrated a vibrant interest in the success of the club. Also our thanks should go to the ones who set-up, worked in the kitchen and helped clean up.

Today is bright and sunny at Ramblewood. The stream that runs through the meadow is pretty and peaceful. However, there is a sandy, silted beach where the ladies tresses flowered and flourished. We will see how the spring flowers react to the changed environment.

Since I have received my schedule for 1998, I assume everyone else received theirs. It is one that contains something for everyone. Take advantage of it and join us as often as you can. Please remember that the next issue of Shortia needs your contributions. Thank you!

GETTING TO KNOW YOU.....ALINE HANSENS

**Arbuckle, Bill & Bonnie:** PO Box 1049, Flat Rock, NC 28731 (704) 696-2077. Moved to Robbinsville, NC from south FL 15 yrs. ago and to Flat Rock in May '97. Bonnie has long had an interest in native plants and was a naturalist at Snowbird Lodge for a time. Jeanne Smith is a good friend.



**Bucklin, Robert & Mary:** 1421 Mt. Meadow Dr., H'ville, NC 28739 (704) 891-1073. Moved here from Houghton, MI about 4 months ago, drawn by the mild climate and beauty of the area. Mary loves plants and gardening. Bob's major training and real interest is Biology but also he has a PhD in psychology and a private practice.

**Grimmenga, Jeanne & Leo:** 74 Cardinal Rd., Brevard, NC 28712 (704) 885-2731. Moved to Sherwood Forest, NC 18 yrs. ago from suburban Chicago. Jeanne has had a lifelong interest in plants with encouragement and support from Charley Moore. Member friends are Dick & Jeanne Smith.

## MINUTES OF WCBC ANNUAL MEETING JAN. 16, 1998

The minutes of the 1997 meeting were read by Peggy Ellis; the 1997 Treas. Report by Rachel Conway. Both were accepted as read. Erika Parmi gave the Recorder's Report (see p. 4).

Pres. Don Herrman reported on Shortia for Elton Hansens and requested that members submit material for our current 20th Volume of Shortia. He also commented on the strength of our club and that new members are joining regularly.

Discussion followed on various schemes to publicize WCBC through Welcome Wagon, the Visitor's Center and local newspapers. Dean Crawford suggested a committee be formed to pursue these matters.

The Nominating Committee (Dean Crawford, Grace Rice and Millie Pearson) presented the slate for 1998 as follows: Don Herrman, Pres., Elaine Montgomery, V.P., Peggy Ellis, Secy. and Rachel Conway, Treas. All were elected unanimously. Pres. Herrman announced 1998 Recorders -Erika Parmi and Anne Ulinski; Historian, Anne Mathes; and SHORTIA Editors, Elton and Aline Hansens. Anne Mathes gave her report and requested member participation. Anne Ulinski will keep us informed of Dick Smith's book signing date in the spring.

Special thanks were expressed to Carl and Margaret Byrd for table decorations in honor of the 25th Anniversary of WCBC. Aline Hansens designed the place mats. We appreciate the extra effort and enthusiasm. Respectfully Submitted, Peggy Ellis, 1-16-98.

### WCBC TREASURER'S REPORT, DEC. 31, 1997.

Jan. 1, 1997 Balance on Hand. \$2410.25

Receipts: Membership dues	\$816.00	
Donations	8.00	
Interest	<u>22.26</u>	
Total Available 1997		<u>\$3256.51</u>

#### Disbursements:

Program schedules + postage	\$194.35	
Shortia + postage + copies	598.02	
Membership lists	66.33	
Plant lists	79.10	
Rent, Parish Hall, St. Johns	75.00	
Annual meeting supplies	8.00	
Check register	7.00	
Treasurer expenses	8.50	
Botanical Gardens at Asheville	<u>50.00</u>	
Total disbursements		<u>\$1086.30</u>

Dec. 31, 1997 -- Balance on hand \$2170.21

This balance includes the Harry Logan Bequest  
1997 Disbursements 598.02  
Dec. 31, 1997 - on hand \$840.77

Respectfully submitted, Rachel M. Conway, Treasurer

## RECORDER'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1997.....ERIKA S. PARMİ

This was one of the best years for field trips, since I have been Recorder. We had no cancellations, but we did make substitutions for 2 trips. Only 5 people came for the Coleman Boundry trip (thunderstorms were predicted but never materialized). The group decided not to drive so far and then perhaps be rained out. We decided to go to the NC Arboretum instead. Raven Cliff Falls was substituted for Chandler Preserve, because the road to Chandler was in poor condition. Most of the trip reports came in with comments about the good weather.

We probably will not be able to continue going to Chandler Preserve because of the road deterioration. However, we have found another great South Carolina Heritage Preserve, Glassy Mountain, to take its place. We had a fantastic trip to the Harris property for the first time, but it will not be rescheduled for 1998 since the Woodfin Cascades trail is now off limits. Perhaps we will be able to schedule the trip in future years. The trip there on May 23 produced the second highest number of plants (78) in bloom or in bud for the year 1997.

Only the Parkway South on Sept. 12 produced more - 82. We should continue to schedule this trip early in September. For the last few years we have been going in late September when many of the species have finished blooming. In addition to the above two trips we had 3 more trips that produced more than 60 species - Tanbark Tunnel on May 12 with 74, Oconee Station on April 7 with 63 and the Highlands Botanical Garden with 61. The scouting trip for Coleman Boundary/Douglas Falls produced 75 species with some mass displays of dwarf larkspur. Let's all try to make the May 8, 1998 trip!

Thirteen trips each produced between 40 and 59 species. Eleven trips each had between 20-39 species. Only 4 trips produced less than 20. This year improved on numbers of species in bloom. Two-thirds of the trips had more than 30 species, whereas in the years 1994 to 1996 slightly more than half had more than 30 species.

A total of 36 field trips, 2 picnics and one overnight were scheduled. No reports were turned in for 3 trips and 2 were partially reported, so my figures are based on the available statistics. Total attendance of 564 was two less than last year. This averaged out to about 16 persons per reported trip. The highest attendance was at the picnic at Don Herrman's - 35. Of the field trips the Pearson's Falls trip attracted the most people - 30. Nine other field trips had 20 or more participants. Fifteen were attended by less than 10 people. Let's hope for more good weather and more participation for the 1998 season.

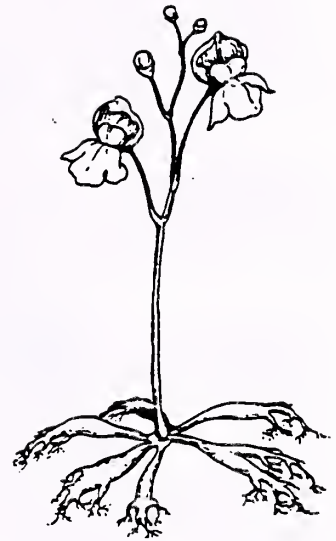
In 1998 we will have two Recorders. Anne Ulinski has offered to share the duties. She will be in charge of the compilation of plant lists on her computer. I will continue to assign field recorders, distribute and receive plant lists, and act as contact person for the field recorders. We hope to have a new and improved set of forms for the 1998 season. If you have any suggestions regarding plant lists and trip reports, please let one of us know.



**Utricularia radiata**

**Floating bladderwort**

This aquatic plant of ponds, lakes, swamps, drainage ditches and canals floats free in the water. It has a golden yellow corolla with a spur sometimes streaked or dotted with red. The flowers are on a slender stem and are held afloat by a whorl of from 4-9 inflated branches which lie just below the surface of the water. The branches themselves are repeatedly forked into filiform segments. Below these "water wings" the stem continues to descend and branch into more filiform segments or leaves with many tiny bladders.



This amazing plant in the Lentibulariaceae family was collected for the herbarium project in September 1997 from the front lake at the Carl Sandburg National Historic Site in Flat Rock, N.C. Each plant held between 1-3 yellow flowers. More than 40 of these floating plants could be seen from the bridge which crosses the front lake at the dam. Its appearance is especially surprising because in June 1996 this lake was completely drained.

Radford, Ahles and Bell in the "Manual of the Vascular Plants of the Carolinas" do not show this plant growing in the western part of N.C. but in the coastal plain. Geoffrey and Wooten in their "Aquatic and Wetland Plants of Southeastern United States" show this species as one of the coastal plain from N.J. to south Florida and westward to east Texas. Newcomb merely states that it grows "Near the coast".

RAB lists this plant as *Utricularia inflata* var. *minor*

-Anne Ulinski

Upper drawing from "Wild Plants of America"  
by Richard M. Smith



Equisetum, horsetail, scouring rush. Interesting plant, so different. Best place to look for them is down along the railroad tracks. Why do they prefer such a limited location?? A beautiful, big patch grows along the Clinchfield RR just this side of Erwin, TN. River banks are also likely places to find them. Found one patch in W VA tall as my shoulder. B&B says "This genus is an ancient one and was much more prominent in earlier geological periods."

Lycopodium, shining club moss and others. Such beautiful plants. Only 6 species grow in the mountains, only 4 are common. (Shame on you if you do not learn their names.) When spores are ripe in August, bring matches and play a bit. The spores are used in fireworks and as a dusting powder.

Selaginella is another interesting genus that we overlook because it doesn't have gaudy flowers. (I'm prone to champion the "have-nots".) Two species live on the bare rocks at the top of waterfalls. Why there and seldom any other bare rock?? Makes a rough looking mat over large patches.. Look for the lovely, dainty meadow selaginella right up against the back of the log cabin in the Botanical Gardens at UNC Asheville. Only place I've ever seen it wild. It is often used in terrariums--or is it terraria? WARNING: do not "borrow" any from the Garden!

Isoetes, quillwort. A mystery plant. Radford shows it occurring throughout the mountains. I have never seen it and I have never heard it mentioned on any of our trips. Seems it grows in or very near the water of pools, ponds and bogs. I hope I meet up with it someday in some roadside ditch.

All the above are what I think of as orphans. They are not really related to each other. They are too advanced to be included in the mosses and not far enough along to join the ferns. Books often refer to them as "fern allies". Fern books are about the only sources of non-technical information.

And that brings us up to the ferns---another subject for another day and I hope another writer.--(Barbara, where are you?)

Flowers are beautiful -- but DO expand your horizon to include mosses, lichens, ferns and their allies. You will enjoy them all!

The books mentioned above are technical but they do have some pictures of some species...

REFERENCES: 1. Radford et al. Manual of the Vascular Flora of the Carolinas. 2. B&B, the New Britton and Brown Illustrated Flora by Henry A. Gleason.

PLEASE HELP: 1. If your address is circled on this SHORTIA you have not paid your 1998 dues. Please send your check for \$8.00 to Rachel Conway, Treas., 211 Aldersgate Circle, Givens Estates, Asheville, NC 28803. 2. Please check your 1997 List of Members for accuracy of listing (address & phone). Send corrections to Rachel. A 1998 Membership List will be mailed in March.

## OUR DAVIDSON RIVER WALK

We walked beside the river  
(The weather was just great.)  
We could have stayed much longer  
But life can hardly wait!

So many shrubs and tiny plants  
(They named all they could see!)  
As we strolled beside the river,  
Our tiny group--and me!

It's said life's like a garden,  
That you harvest what you plant,  
But we know of some who can do it  
And we know of some who can't.

One way or the other, it was a lovely day  
So we all just kept on walking  
... And talking all the way!  
With congenial companions and a  
place to stop and eat,  
We laughed and joked together  
While the leaves fell 'round our feet.

10/31/97

Walter Davies



## SPRING IS JUST AROUND THE

Today, Feb. 8, I saw the first dandelion in bloom,  
nearly open catkins on tag alder, and tiny white  
flowers on bitter cress, (Cardamine pennsylvanica).  
LOOK AND SEE!!!

CORNER.

## FROM THE EDITORS OF SHORTIA

As WCBC celebrates its 25th Anniversary, **SHORTIA**, our quarterly newsletter, begins its 20th year, thanks to a succession of editors. We think this is a good issue with interest and variety.

This is YOUR newsletter and your contributions help to keep the issues rolling out. We look forward to input from members to add interest and variety---so please continue to send us your ideas on WCBC and your thoughts on Plants, Places, and People. We look forward to receiving your writing, illustrations and innovations.



It is interesting to note that trillium is a plant of the lily family in three parts. The "tri" in Latin is three so trillium has three leaves, three sepals, three petals, six stamens and a three segment ovary. However, have you noticed that sometimes a species will change its "tri" form in the petals?

Trillium grandiflorum is especially notable for its variations. I would like to record some of these odd forms I have seen over the years. I recall back in 1965 exploring a wooded area between Lockport and Middleport, N.Y. there were thousands of T. grandiflorum, more than half of which were variations. They had broad white petals with narrow green stripes in the middle, some were the opposite, green petals with narrow white stripes. Some were all green with fancy ruffled white edges. A few had narrow, long white petals with broad pale green centers in tiers of three on top of each other - nine petals in all. There were also variables of these varieties making the whole show a memorable experience.

We found some T. erectum with white petals and fine red veins which were very different from the usual solid color variations of this species. T. grandiflorum also depart from the three petal forms, occasionally producing four and five petals which I have found in our hikes in the south. On one hike near Douglass Falls in the Craggy area I found a painted trillium (T. undulatum) with four petals. Also in that general area there was a white T. erectum with four leaves, sepals and petals. So while trilliums basically are in parts of three, some, especially grandiflorums get a bit restless and take off for a special show.

Harold W. Rickett in his two volume set "Wildflowers of the United States" says "If we translate Lilium into lilies, why not Trillium into trillies?"

#### A LONG AWAITED ANNOUNCEMENT

When the wildflower season begins this spring we will have a new field guide to take with us on the trails. It is the long-awaited *Wildflowers of the Southern Mountains*, written and illustrated by past president Richard M. Smith and published by The University of Tennessee Press.

Dick commenced work on this project a dozen years ago, but shelved it temporarily when asked by an editor to develop a guide to places of botanical interest throughout the United States; this culminated in his *Wild Plants of America*, published by John Wiley & Sons in 1989.

The new book focuses on the Blue Ridge physiographic province and surrounding mountains--that part of the Southeast where most of us live and which is widely known for its botanical diversity--although its usefulness will extend far beyond its boundaries.

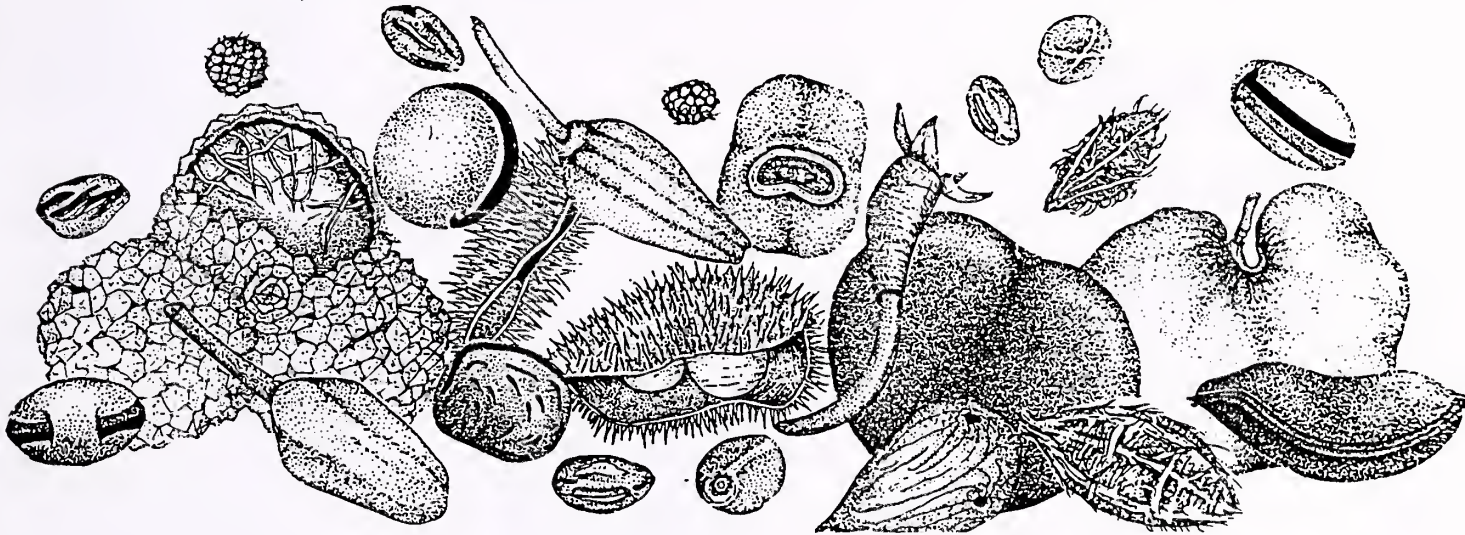
Coverage is unusually comprehensive, with more than 1,200 species (virtually every wildflower in the region) described, and approximately half of them illustrated with 600 color photographs.



## NOTES FROM WHITE SQUIRREL.....Charles R. Gunn

This has been a topsy-turvy fall!! I have discontinued my day to day work with tropical drift seeds and fruits. My extensive collections have been moved to the Orlando, FL area and the Editorship of the Newsletter has gone to Melbourne Beach, FL. Before leaving this subject, I want to note that over 300 people attended our October 1997 meeting in Melbourne Beach. For those who would like to know more about this subject, come to my talk on February 13, 1998.

With a sad sigh and a very large dose of apprehension, I am starting on my final nonflora subject---Fruit-seed morphology at the family level for all spermatophyte families. This can only be done with these elements in place: 1. Access to the Worldwide Web and E mail; 2. a stabilized concept, on a world basis, of these families, and this has been done; 3. a major and tested taxonomic computer program - in my case DELTA; 4. an extensive literature overview - I have spent 12 years assembling this, and house it in Brevard; and 5. access to the world's largest seed-fruit collections which I assembled in Beltsville, MD.



### BOOK SIGNING

The Western Carolina Botanical Club and the Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy will co-sponsor a book signing of Dick Smith's new book at two local bookstores: Mountain Lore, North Main Street, Hendersonville, and Highland Books, 409 Broad Street, Brevard.

This is an opportunity to purchase a copy of Dick's new book, "Wildflowers of the Southern Mountains" and have your copy personally signed.

Members will be notified of the dates of each of the signings. For more information call Anne Ulinski, 697-9527 in Hendersonville or Bill Thomas, 885-8229; Brevard.

S H O R T I A

Vol. XX, No. 1

SPRING 1998

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE WESTERN CAROLINA BOTANICAL CLUB

Editors: Elton J and Aline Hansens   Distribution: Ruth Hoerich

Please submit contributions (articles, Letters to the Editors, notes, etc. for the next issue by May 15, 1998 to Aline Hansens, 125 Far Horizons Lane, Asheville, NC 28803.

SHORTIA  
c/o Ruth Hoerich  
215 Newport Road  
Hendersonville, NC 28739



-----  
FIRST CLASS  
-----

William Buck  
New York Botanical Garden  
3065 Sedgwick Ave. #6B  
Bronx NY 10468

AS  
.H67  
v. 20  
#2

# SHORTIA

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
WESTERN CAROLINA BOTANICAL CLUB

SUMMER 1998

**LIBRARY**

JUN 15 1998

**NEW YORK  
BOTANICAL GARDEN**



ELTON and ALINE HANSENS  
Editors



WESTERN CAROLINA BOTANICAL CLUB - 1998

President:	Don Herrman	Recorder:	Erika Parmi
Vice-President:	Elaine Montgomery	Recorder:	Anne Ulinski
Secretary:	Peggy Ellis	Historian:	Anne Matthes
Treasurer:	Rachel Conway		

FROM THE PRESIDENT.....DON HERRMAN

Its the Vernal Equinox with all kinds of stormy weather that cancelled the Holmes Educational State Forest hike, although El Nino gets all the blame. If you want to predict rainy weather--just schedule a Hardy Souls Hike..

At the meadow, the moss is loving this weather--I am sure the wild flowers will follow. The British Soldiers are standing guard over the fruit trees. Next will come the violets, so I won't have to mow.

The newspaper contained the news of our new 828 telephone area code and the pending change of street addresses in Hendersonville and surrounding area. This presents quite a challenge to Ruth and Rachel who are putting together our membership list. The good news is that this provides more time to send dues to the treasurer and to be listed in the 1998 WCBC Membership List.

If you will refer to our summer 1996 issue of Shortia you will find an interesting article on comfort on the trails. It has some good tips by EJH. If you can't find any past issues just call the Editors. They will be glad to hear of your interest in Shortia....Thank you!

FROM THE TREASURER:

FINAL CALL for dues before the new Membership Directory comes out. Also, be sure you notify Rachel Conway, 211 Aldersgate Circle, Asheville, NC (Tel. (828) 274-1414) if you have a new address or phone number.

\*\*\* PLAN AHEAD FOR THE WCBC PICNIC AT RAMBLEWOOD \*\*\*

FRIDAY JUNE 12. Early arrivals have a choice of easy trails.

For lunch bring a casserole, salad or dessert. Bring your own beverage and table service. MEETING PLACE: Laurel Park Shopping Mall. TIME: 10:00 a.m. Join others at Herrman's Ramblewood. If you have questions call DON, 877-3532.

## PARABLE OF THE BOTANIST'S APPRENTICE

Once there was an outdoorsman who lived for many years in a place of two seasons which were called "winter" and "not winter." He became restless and bored with the same old surroundings and too-familiar flora. Carrying his few belongings he wandered until he came to the Land of Four Seasons and Blue Ridges and knew he had found a home.

However, once there the man came to feel as a stranger, unable to recognize most nearby plants and environments. "Where are the marsh marigolds?" he cried. "And there are no larch trees!" So he sought out a person who had mastered these things, fell on his knees before her and cried, "Poor me! This all is so very different! I am out of place here."

The Master Botanist sympathized, "Yes..., that is so."

The man pleaded successfully to be allowed to apprentice himself to her and began to faithfully follow her onto nearby trails. He soon noted, "Mistress, I observe that there are tenfold the genera of plants in this new place. It even seems that not everybody uses the same name for the same plant! Must I also learn Latin names to be sure we speak of the same thing?!"

And the Teacher replied, "Yes..., that is so."

So the Apprentice strove and strove until he had learned much of what she had to teach. Even then, from time to time, he saw that the Teacher might still point out another new or rare species and he was sore dismayed. "I have a plethora of Clethera!" he objected. "A confusion of profusion!" Then news arrived and it came to pass that even some of his hard-learned Latin names were changed for greater accuracy!!

The Apprentice tore his hair and rent his garments. "Just when I do learn something," he wailed, "they change it! Even plant names! There is no way I shall ever know all there is to know!"

And the Teacher said, "Yes..., So?"

Accurately related by Dean Crawford

**HARDY SOULS HIKE, 1998.....DEAN CRAWFORD**

The WCBC maintained the tradition of scheduling the annual Hardy Souls Hike on the last Friday of February. The following is the official, complete and unexpurgated report on that hike as a record for the archives.

**Location and weather:** Davidson River Trail near the Pisgah Forest Ranger Station, a cool, drizzly and foggy day.

**Number of Hikers:** one, including leader and recorder but not including our faithful President who did come to the meeting place to commiserate.

**Trail condition:** probably pretty good, but fog made it difficult to tell.

**Plants observed in bloom:** Daffodil, Narcissus sp.

**Fauna observed:** red salamander(2). Pseudotriton ruber ruber. Also signs of recent activity by beaver, Castor canadensis, having gnawed down a tulip tree, Liriodendron tulipifera.

**Cusine:** Judged as excellent. Main course was thickly sliced turkey, Meleagris domesticus, on a platform of wheat bread and garnished with sprouts and just a hint of horseradish. This was served with a domestic Lemon Zinger, vintage 1997, which was found to have a youthful yet serious bouquet with a pleasantly tangy aftertaste.

A good time was had by all.



## North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

PISGAH CENTER FOR WILDLIFE EDUCATION is an agency of the NC Wildlife Resources Commission located in a new facility near the Fish Hatchery on FS 475 off Hwy 276. A variety of workshops, hikes and special events are listed in a brochure available at the center.

" 'Tis the Season for Wildflowers" is offered on two different dates, May 23 and May 28 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Participants will learn to identify wildflowers based on Newcomb's Wildflower Guide method.

"Join in the fun on June 5 by participating in the "Our Feathered Friends" program. From 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. participants will walk on the trails surrounding the wildlife education center and learn to identify birds by sight and sound."



FROM THE DESK OF BILL VERDUIN:

Saturday Terry, Ev and I went up to the Manasses area to see Virginia bluebells -- and see them we did! We saw clumps, small patches, strips along the trail, quarter acre patches, HALF ACRE patches, and places where it looked like they just went on forever! It was breathtaking. They were down in a floodplain and with all the rain we have had, some obviously good places we could not travel. After you see the first million who cares about another million or two.. And just to set them off to advantage the entire area was completely carpeted with zillions and zillions of spring beauty - just like grass in the lawn. What a sight!

There was almost nothing else in the area, but I did see American bladdernut for the first time, just one bush, but it was in bloom.

#### A RARE PHENOMENON.....DON BENDER

An unusual natural flower display seen at Glassy Mountain Preserve on the April hike this year deserves special mention.

Glassy Mountain is a true monadnock, its rock formation standing rather alone in the midst of a surrounding, slightly rolling, land surface. The hiking trail is several hundred feet below the top of the easterly side. Just above the trail are a few broad areas of exposed sloping rock on which we found a magnificent showing of wild plants with concurrently blooming flowers.

Mosses had built up in many areas on the lichens and on the rock face. These provided a green base for an extensive mat of elfin orpine (Sedum (diamorpha) smallii) which was showing its small white flowers and dominant red foliage. Above the orpine were masses of smooth sandwort (Arenaria groenlandica v. glabra) with white flowers providing a beautiful contrast. In addition, there were scattered clusters of bluish-purple spiderwort (Tradescantia hirsuticaulis, blueets (Houstonia caerulea, dwarf dandelion (Krigia virginica), and prickly pear cactus (Opuntia humifusa), all in flower.

This specacular color composite had a clearly fragile beauty, and we approached it cautiously to avoid damage. The occasion will undoubtedly remain memorable to all who saw it. We can only hope that its rarity will be preserved for the future.

"THE BOTANICAL GARDENS OF ASHEVILLE" Please help!!

A special Winter Storm Fund has been established to repair damage to the gardens from January's storm. We welcome contributions (Tax Deductible) payable to "The Botanical Gardens of Asheville" and earmarked for the STORM FUND. Mail checks to the Gardens, 151 W.T. Weaver Blvd., Asheville, NC 28804.

Submitted by WCBC Treasurer Rachel Conway.

WHO IS CURTIS?.....CONNIE UPDIKE

On several of our hikes in the fall we have encountered Solidago curtisii and Aster curtisii. Along the maintenance road leading to the trail at the Fish Hatchery, they were blooming side by side. Who was Mr. Curtis? In the Larousse Dictionary of Scientists, 1994 edition, I found reference to William Curtis (1749-99). He was an English horticulturist and botanist born in Alton, Hampshire. (How many of you have been there -- or near there?) Curtis started a botanical garden in Lambeth in 1777. Before that he was director of the Chelsea Physic Garden from 1772-77. In 1777 he made a list of all the plants growing within 10 miles. of London. Unfortunately because of the cost this was never published. However, his study of the Enumeration of British Grasses was published in 1787.

He began the first periodical devoted only to plants in 1794. It was directed to horticulturists, and included both descriptions of plants and lovely hand-colored plates. Originally called Curtis's Botanical Magazine, it is now called Kew Magazine and uses much of the original format.

I found nothing indicating that William Curtis visited the New World.

EDITOR: Another interesting article on this subject can be found in SHORTIA Vol. XVII, No. 3, p. 7.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU.....ALINE HANSENS

Chattaway, Pat: P.O. Box 2, Balsam, NC 28707. (828) 456-5801. Winter Address: (after Oct. 1248 So. Alahambra Circle, Coral Gables, FL 33146. (305) 661-0029). Retired kindergarten teacher; has enjoyed wild flowers. Learned of the club from Mary Helen Harris.



SIMS, WILLIAM R. (BILL): 24 Timberlane Circle. Pisgah Forest, NC. 28768. (828) 884-9804. Former member reinstated. Avid gardener, was a friend of Harry Logan.

## "WILDFLOWERS OF THE SOUTHERN MOUNTAINS"

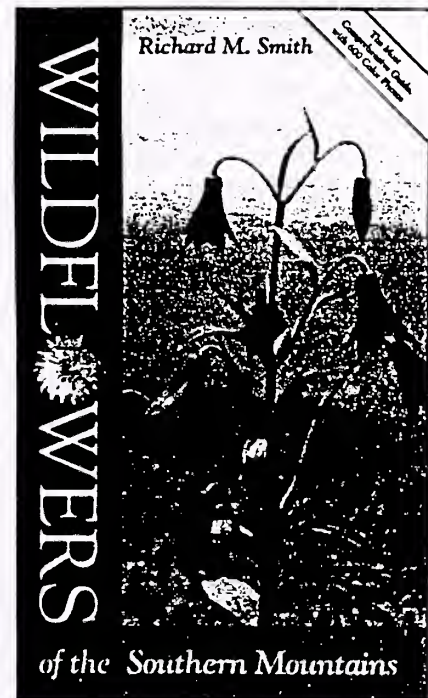
The wildflowers of the southern mountains are here--in all their springtime glory--and so is the book of the same name.

*Wildflowers of the Southern Mountains*, written and illustrated by WCBC member Richard M. Smith and published by The University of Tennessee Press, has finally arrived in the bookstores. Printing and binding took place in Italy, which necessitated shipment by sea and involved the inevitable customs clearance in New York before the distribution center in Chicago could begin filling the accumulated backorders. (Participants in some of our early field trips did have a sneak preview, but only because Dick and Jeanne brought along the two advance copies that had been airmailed to them.)

This new guide book focuses primarily on the Blue Ridge physiographic province and is unusually complete in that it describes more than 1,200 species--virtually every herbaceous wildflower occurring in this region. Fully one-half of these are depicted by 600 color photographs chosen for their representation of diagnostic characters. Identification is further aided by a pictorial key based on flower shape and color, and by an extensive glossary of botanical terms.

A more detailed description of the book's features, including sample pages, can be seen on the publisher's site on the World Wide Web at <http://sunsite.utk.edu/utpress>.

Through the efforts of Anne Ulinski, Bill Thomas and Elton Hansens, the Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy and the Western Carolina Botanical Club co-sponsored two book signings at local stores: one at Mountain Lore Books on North Main Street, Hendersonville, and one at Highland Books at 409 Broad Street in Brevard. These events were publicized in part by announcements provided by the sponsoring organizations and mailed to their members. Both stores will, of course, continue to stock the book for those who were unable to attend the signings. For members who wish to obtain autographed copies, Dick will accept mail orders at the regular price of \$24.95 plus 6% NC sales tax (where applicable) and a \$3.00 charge to cover shipping and handling; orders should be sent to him at P. O. Box 2343, Brevard, NC 28712.





Linnaeus fame is based on his system of classifying plants according to their reproductive organs and using binomial names. His system was ridiculed but he saw far beyond his detractors to its utility for broadening botanical knowledge. Remembered primarily for this system, his qualities as a teacher are likely to be overlooked.

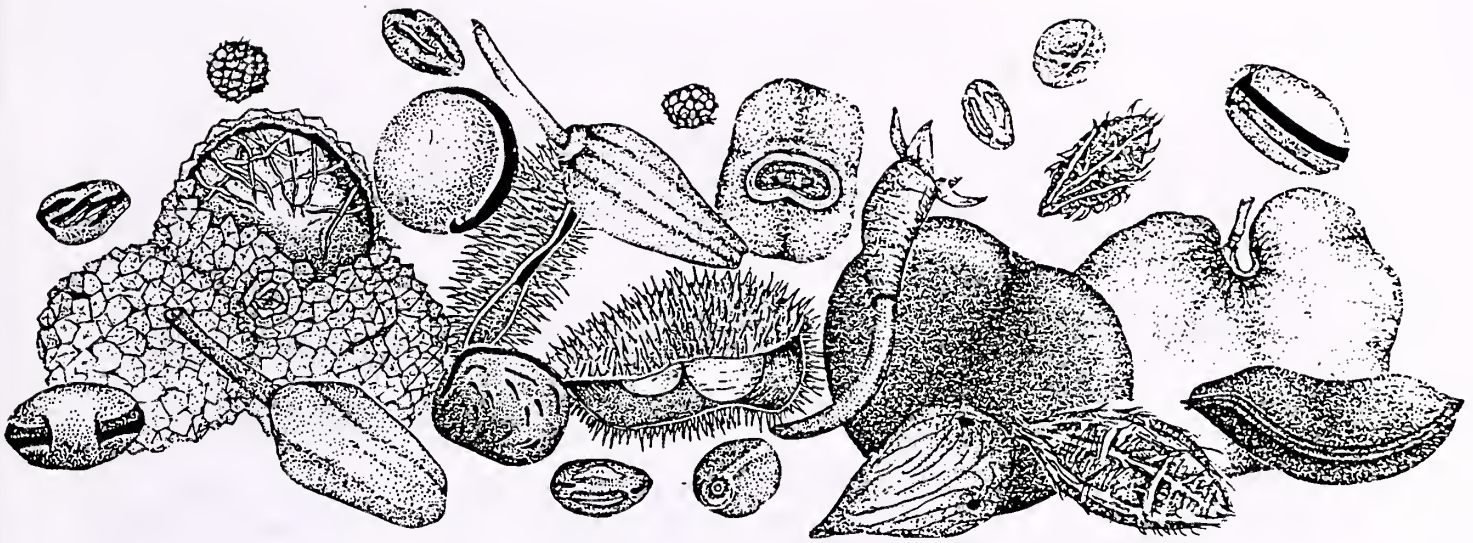
Fascinated by flowers from early childhood, and aided by an orderly mind and an incomparable memory, he was already impressive botanically when he arrived to study at Uppsala. His comprehension in natural science including botany, medicine, zoology and mineralogy, was recognized early; he gave many lectures as a student. In 1735, he visited Western Europe where his reputation had already reached many of the foremost doctors and botanists of the time. Despite strong incentives to make his career there, he returned to Sweden, where he was later married.

In 1741, Linnaeus received the Professorship he had hoped for in Medicine and Botany at Uppsala, and from the outset his popularity and effectiveness with students was quite universal. He was a consummate lecturer, using but few notes. He never failed to captivate his audience. His Saturday Walks are also revealing. There were often 150 students. They could dress informally and scatter into small groups. Linnaeus never restrained hilarity, but did try to make them think for themselves. If an unusual plant was found, a bugle was blown, all would gather, and Linnaeus would elucidate. A table for 20 was set with lunch. Those who found the rarest plants sat at this table with Linnaeus, and there was lively competition for the honor. The walk would end with all shouting "Vivat Linnaeus" (Long live Linnaeus!)---and so he did through 23 of his students who became professors!

As the years passed, widespread recognition and many honors came to Linnaeus. King Fredrik I, in 1747, gave him the rank and title of Archiater (Chief Physician). In 1753, he received the Knighthood of the Polar Star, and, in 1760 he was Titled Carl von Linne'. Many Royal Societies made him Honorary Member. And in 1775 he was visited by King Gustof III. In later years he suffered several debilitating strokes and died January 10, 1778.

Reference: "The Compleat Naturalist, a Life of Linnaeus", Wilfrid Blunt, The Viking Press, New York, 1971.

SHORTIA going back to 1983 is housed in the Biology Department at UNCA and is available for student reference in botany courses. Thank you for keeping me on the mailing list over the years, and please continue to do so. SHORTIA is a valuable resource for the department. James D. Perry, UNCA



# NOTES FROM WHITE SQUIRREL.....CHARLES R. GUNN

The question: What green plant is more or less invisible in the summer and green and quite visible in winter?

The Clue: Look up into the trees. This species is at the margin of its North Carolina distribution in Brevard. In our subdivision, Deer Lake, I have located two plants. The seeds of this species are spread by birds. They eat the whitish berries including the seeds. When they land, the birds may leave a seed or two neatly glued in furrows of a tree branch. Even though this species has green leaves, the plant is a parasite.

The answer: This is authentic mistletoe (Phoradendron serotinum), a member of the mistletoe family, Loranthaceae, also called the Showy Mistletoe Family. On the other hand, we have in Europe, the Christmas mistletoe, Viscum album in the family Viscaceae. In North America, the role of the Christmas mistletoe is taken by Phoradendron serotinum.

Basically, the Showy Mistletoe Family, Loranthaceae, has perfect flowers, 4-12 seeds per fruit, and lack chlorophyll, while the Christmas Mistletoe Family members have unisexual flowers, 2(-3) seeds per fruit, and have chlorophyll. The two families were one until the 1950's.

As a follow up to our beautiful visit to Pearson's Falls, the Tryon (private) Library has a copy of Donald Culross Peattie's FLORA OF THE TRYON REGION. I also have a copy of this report.

Copies of PEARSON'S FALLS GLEN...ITS STORY...ITS BIRDS by Peattie are available at the gate to the Falls. Appended to this booklet are THE GLEN'S TRAILSIDE PLANTS by Oliver M. Freeman and THE GLEN'S BIRDS by C.T. Downer. The Freeman article lists only the popular plants, only one grass species and no members of the Juncaceae. Remember the pathrush (Luzula)?

S H O R T I A

Vol. XX, No. 2.

SUMMER 1998

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE WESTERN CAROLINA BOTANICAL CLUB

Editors: Elton J and Aline Hansens   Distribution: Ruth Hoerich

Please submit contributions (articles, Letters to the Editors, notes, etc.) for the next issue by Aug. 10, 1998 to Aline Hansens, 125 Far Horizons Lane, Asheville, NC 28803.

SHORTIA  
c/o Ruth Hoerich  
215 Newport Road  
Hendersonville, NC 28739



-----  
FIRST CLASS  
-----

William Buck  
New York Botanical Garden  
3065 Sedgwick Ave. #6B  
Bronx NY 10468



# WESTERN CAROLINA BOTANICAL CLUB

This is a roster of members paying \$8.00 annual family dues to Rachel Conway, Treasurer, by May 1, 1998. Corrections or additions should be sent to her. Members receive the **PROGRAM SCHEDULES** semi-annually and quarterly mailings of **Shortia**.

Unless otherwise noted, the State is NC with the telephone area code 828, and Hendersonville is H'ville.

Arbuckle, William & Bonnie	P.O. Box 1049, Flat Rock 28731	696-2077
Arrington, Daisy	2490 F Windsor Woods Lane, Norcross GA 30071	
Barber, A.F. & Iva	P.O. Box 115, Flat Rock 28731	693-6217
*Bell, Calla	P.O. Box 38, Tuxedo 28784	692-3241
Bender, Donald & Louisa	219 Aldersgate Circle, Asheville 28803	274-4054
*Blaha, Millie	P.O. Box 360, Cedar Mountain 28718	885-2424
Blanchard, Ruth	519 Cokesbury Lane, Asheville 28803	277-9479
Bockoven, Paul & Elizabeth	105 High Rocks Trail, H'ville 28739	697-5998
Bokerman, Sandra L.	247 Tanassee Gap Road, Balsam Grove 28708	862-5722
Buck, William	New York Botanical Garden, 3065 Sedgwick Ave. #6B Bronx NY 10468	
Bucklin, Robert & Mary	1421 Mt. Meadow Drive, H'ville 28739	891-1093
	- 1219 East 7th Avenue, Haughton MI 49931	
Bunn, Dorothy	P.O. Box 263, Balsam 28707	456-7772
	Winter - 1175 E. Hermosa Ave. Bartow FL 33830	
Butenhof, Ed & Barbara	201 Red Oak Drive, H'ville 28791	697-9773
Byrd, Carl & Margaret	520 Oak Hill Court, H'ville 28739	693-6314
Chattaway, J.S. & Patrica	P.O. Box 2, Balsam 28707	456-5801
	Winter - 1248 South Alhambra Circle, Coral Gables FL 33146	
Childs, Sam & Clara	Wesley Drive, Villa 22B, Asheville 28803	277-8862
Collins, Edward W.	136 Finley Cove Road, H'ville 28739	697-9226
Colmont, Ray	Toxaway Views, Route 64, Unit 402 Lake Toxaway 28747	
	Winter - 73 Skull Creek Drive Mariner Point, Unit B-210 Hilton Head Island SC 29926	803-681-6628
Conger, Frank & Margaret	205 Newport Road, H'ville 28739	696-9386
Conway, Rachel M.	211 Aldersgate Circle, Asheville 28803	274-1414
Crawford, Dean & JoAnn	3229 Debbie Drive, H'ville 28791	697-6761
Creely, Beverly Ann	708 Sylvan Road, H'ville 28791	697-2024
	Winter - 11101 S.W. 79 Avenue, Miami FL 33156	
Cross, John & Bernice	320 Old Poplar Lane, Brevard 28712	885-2508
Davies, Walter & Betse	112 Glenbrook Drive, H'ville 28739	698-3353
Davis, Charlton & Patricia	240 Laurel Heights, Highlands 28711	526-0252
	Winter - P.O. Box 1449, Valdosta GA 31603	
Dillard, Jean Roeder	321 Turnpike Road, Horse Shoe 28742	891-9034
Dupree, Al & Agnita	Wesley Drive, Villa 24E, Asheville 28803	277-0835
Eisenberg, Robert & Lynne	120 Kanuga Lake Road, H'ville 28739	692-2735
Ellis, Peggy	281 Laurel Drive, Fletcher 28732	684-3918
Farrar, W. Edmund & Carver	17 Dogwood Lane, Brevard 28712	885-2456



Feil, Elizabeth	10 Springside Park, Asheville	28803	684-8719
Florence, Thomas & Glenna	P.O. Box 32 Gerton	28735	625-4401
*Foresman, Louise	600 Carolina Village Road, #89, H'ville	28792	692-5389
Gadd, Charles & Frances	218 Pheasant Run, H'ville	28739	692-1075
Galda, Odessa	601 Carolina Drive, Tryon	28782	859-6093
Goldsmith, James W.	P.O. Box 1107, Marion	28752	652-9196
Greer, Frederick & Jeanne	205 Stonebrook Drive, H'ville	28791	697-1406
Gregg, Wynette	75 Robin Hood Road, Brevard	28712	862-4716
Grimmenga, Leo & Jeanne	74 Cardinal Road, Brevard	28712	885-2731
Gunn, Bob & Betty	120 White Squirrel Lane, Brevard	28712	883-9719
*Hallowell, Tom & Barbara	207 Kendal Drive, Kennet Square PA	19348	
*Hansens, Elton & Aline	125 Far Horizons Lane, Asheville	28803	277-7486
Harris, Mary Helen	41 Cut Off Lane, Sylva	28779	452-9574
Winter -	408 Orlando Ave., Ocoee FL	34761	
Hart, Thomas & Beth	5 Wren Glen, H'ville	28792	693-0457
Herrman, Don	Route 4 Box 229B, H'ville	28739	877-3532
Hoerich, Ruth	215 Newport Road, H'ville	28739	696-8063
Holmes, Sarah	214 Aldersgate Circle, Asheville	28803	274-9255
Hudson, Jack & Dorothy	P.O. Box 1934, Brevard	28712	883-8828
Jones, Betty	186 Johnson Drive, Brevard	28712	884-3860
Kehr, August & Mary Lou	240 Tranquility Place, H'ville	28739	693-7551
Kilgore, Rosalie	104 Finley Brook Way, H'ville	28739	693-8081
Kilmer, Lori	67 Gosling Circle, H'ville	28792	697-6431
Kipp, Hazel	410 Crooked Creek Road, H'ville	28739	696-9923
Krumenauer, Mrs. Keene	112 Hawthorne Drive, H'ville	28791	891-5391
Kurinsky, Allen & Naomi	136 South Cherrywood Lane, Pisgah Forest	28768	966-9675
Kuster, Ivan & Harriet	208 Rippy Road, Tryon	28782	859-9289
Lindley, Mary Ellen	Wesley Drive, Villa 11A, Asheville	28803	277-7316
Mahan, Laura N. & Harold D.	2 Biltmore Plaza, Asheville	28803	274-5430
Mathis, Harris & Tillie	Route 4, Box 164A, Brevard	28712	885-2764
Winter -	520 NW 18th Lane, Jennings FL	32053	904-938-3375
Matthes, Herbert & Anne	151 Arthur Lane, H'ville	28791	891-9700
McCurdy, Dale & Carol	129 Ben Mar Lane, H'ville	28739	891-2212
McDaniel, Gerald & Lois	795 Crooked Creek Road, H'ville	28739	697-9752
Meister, Charles & Nancy	150 Thrashing Rock Drive, H'ville	28739	697-1257
Merkle, Ralph & Mary	180 Tranquility Place, H'ville	28739	692-9248
Miller, Earl & Bettye	1799 Woodfin Road, Sylva	28779	
Winter -	P.O. Box 728, La Belle FL	33935	
Montgomery, Bob & Elaine	1636 O'Hara Circle, H'ville	28739	693-7704
Morgan, Shirley	Route 2, Box 56A, Horse Shoe	28742	891-4544
Mulvey, Gladys	13 River Oaks Circle, Horse Shoe	28742	891-4581
Newcomb, Winthrop & Susan	600 Carolina Village Road, #145, H'ville	28792	697-5708
O'Grady, Dana	Route 4, Box 229B, H'ville	28739	877-3532
Orbison, Lowell & Olga	60 Brookwood Road, Asheville	2880 4	254-6723





Parmi, Erika	85 Sweetwater Lane, Pisgah Forest	28768	883-8021
Pearson, Bud & Laverne	2514 Kanuga Road, H'ville	28739	693-5591
*Pearson, Millie	Route 1, Box 330, Saluda	28773	749-3171
*Peelle, Miles	Box 1096, Brevard	28712	877-4234
Perry, Pat & Lois	32 Dvdisidi Court, Brevard	28712	885-2435
	Winter - P.O. Box 306 Hurtsboro AL	36860	
Polchow, Peggy	Route 13, Box 280, H'ville	28739	692-0703
	- 307 Bella Drive, Metairie LA	70005	
Prentice, Donald & Alta Mae	217 Tulip Trail, H'ville	28792	687-3528
Prescott, Saretta H./Lionel	949 Everett Road, Pisgah Forest	28768	877-4859
	Winter - 3930 NW 29th Lane Gainesville FL	32606	
			352-376 0994
Rice, Grace	Lake Pointe Landing, 333 Thompson St. Apt. 115,		
	H'ville	28792	692-1405
Saby, John & Mary	8 Tamara Terrace, H'ville	28791	891-9509
Schifeling, Daniel & Annalee	5 Dogwood Lane, Brevard	28712	885-8487
Schmalstich, Warren & Doris	515 Timberlane, Etowah	28729	891-3642
Sidoti, Marjorie	704 Farmington Circle, H'ville	28739	693-1524
Siefke, Thea	239 Purple Finch, Brevard	28712	862-4480
Sims, William	24 Timberlane Circle, Pisgah Forest	28768	
			884-9804
Sinish, Ken & Bessie	230 Echo Drive, H'ville	28739	693-1573
*Smith, Dick & Jeanne	6 Tinequa Drive, Brevard	28712	885-2530
Smoke, Henry & Therese	606 Hague Drive, Columbus	28722	894-3118
Snow, Charles & Janet	307 Ann Drive, H'ville	28739	693-4083
Stenger, Raymond & Gloria	53 Toboggan Run, Sylva	28779	456-7302
	Winter - 4550 J. Stenger Road, Barlow FL	33830	
Strayer, Lucie A.	Toxaway Views, Route 64, Unit 402, Lake Toxaway		
		28747	
	Winter - 73 Skull Creek Drive, Mariner Point, Unit B-210,		
	Hilton Head Island SC	29926	803-681-6628
Taylor, Sarah	General Delivery, Cedar Mountain	28718	
	Winter - 867 South Colony Drive #123, Charleston SC	29407	
Tener, Albert & Virginia	621 Laurel Lake Drive #B-318, Columbus	28722	
			894-2475
*Ulinski, Anne	1212 Chanteloupe Drive, H'ville	28739	697-9527
Updike, Connie	45 Grouse Lane, Brevard	28712	877-4585
Vande Weghe, Linda	P.O. Box 302, Cedar Mountain	28718	966-9481
*Verduin, Bill & Evelyn	3108 Lake Village Drive, Richmond VA	23235	
Walls, Kenneth & Harriet	132 Frazier Road, Brevard	28712	883-9570
Warren, Ina	126 Country Road, Brevard	28712	862-4079
Weiss, Challice	412 Brandon Road, H'ville	28739	692-4627

\* Honorary Life Member

Officers for 1998: Don Herrman, President; Elaine Montgomery, Vice President; Peggy Ellis, Secretary; Rachel Conway, Treasurer; Erika Parmi, Recorder; Tillie Mathis, Historian; Elton and Aline Hansens, Shortia Editors; Ruth Hoerich, Mailings.





H69  
V. 20  
#3

# SHORTIA

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
WESTERN CAROLINA BOTANICAL CLUB

AUTUMN 1998

LIBRARY

AUG 25 1998

NEW YORK  
BOTANICAL GARDEN



ELTON and ALINE HANSENS  
Editors

## WESTERN CAROLINA BOTANICAL CLUB - 1998

President:	Don Herrman	Recorder:	Erika Parmi
Vice-President:	Elaine Montgomery	Recorder:	Anne Ulinski
Secretary:	Peggy Ellis	Historian:	Anne Matthes
Treasurer:	Rachel Conway		

### FROM THE PRESIDENT.....DON HERRMAN

I believe the weather has changed. From the picnic at Ramblewood to Holmes State Forest and the Parkway it has been clear and comfortable --- may it stay that way. At the Bear Pen picnic area we were all crowded around one table for warmth when it started to rain. That did curtail our activities, an exception I hope.

There was a good, interested and relaxed group here at Ramblewood for the picnic. Most items have been returned. I still have a spoon and a couple pot holders. The star of the botanizing that day was the striped wintergreen discovered at an earlier date while mowing. Eating and botanizing make a great combination. Maybe we should do more of it.

A success story in the meadow--the meadow beauty has made its appearance. Not only on the fringes (as last year) but along the edges of the creek. I also found a few in the center of the meadow. Although the mosses keep spreading, the spring and summer flowers keep coming back.

As fall approaches there will be another scheduling session. All members are invited to send in suggestions for new and different outings. If you would like to attend a planning meeting, please let me know. Another way to participate is to send your thoughts to the Editors of Shortia. They are anxious for your help. Thank you!!

PLEASE NOTE: on the 1998 Membership List in the Officers for 1998 ANNE MATTHES is the Historian, not Tillie Mathis as listed.

### GETTING TO KNOW YOU.....ALINE HANSENS

**Center, Dan & Barbara:** Box 303, Scaly Mountain, NC 28775, 1-(706)-746-2759. Winter Address: 2419 S. Carolina Ave., Tampa FL 33629. Live in NC Apr.-Oct. Interested in plants as a hobby. Learned of WCBC from Bonnie Arbuckle.

**Prescott, Lionel & Saretta:** 949 Everett Rd., Pisgah Forest, NC 28768 (828) 877-4859. Winter Address 3930 N.W. 29th Lane, Gainesville, FL 32606 (352) 376-0994 Live in NC Apr. to Nov, Both have an interest in science and plants. Lionel has a PhD in Botany, his field being physiology and chemistry of plants. Learned of WCBC from Jeanne Smith.



An early wet, spring followed by a cold snap developed into a hot, dry summer. Most wild flowers bloomed earlier than usual. It has been a strange season with turk's lily out in early July along the high elevations of the Parkway, and fly poison already at the green stage of bloom at the same time. We are lucky to live in the mountains where the nation-wide heat wave has been milder than in central Texas where they had more than 25 days of daytime temperatures above 100° and nighttime temperatures above 80°.

On the spring trips to the parkway it was evident that something was defoliating the trees -- especially oak, along with some maple, beech and hickory. The guilty "varmint" was the fall (yes, that's right) cankerworm (Alsophila pometaria) according to the Parkway summer information handout.

I was away for the early spring field trips, two of which were canceled (March 20 - Holmes and April 3 - S. Pacolet River). I returned in time to enjoy the SC Glassy Mountain trip on April 13. It was a stunning display, but not quite as colorful as last year on April 11 when elfin orpine was in full bloom turning the rock surfaces to fire. The Appalachian sandwort, however, was at the peak of its bloom.

The Kanati Fork trip on April 20 to the Great Smoky Mountains NP drew only 8 participants. It was a glorious spring day and all 8 did not want the day to end, so we hiked the Nature Trail loop at the Chimneys. This trail was extremely wet and had turned into a mountain stream in some areas.

The Craggy Gardens on May 4 (earlier than in previous years) presented spectacular displays of spring beauty along the roadsides. Purple fringed orchis was also found. The May 8 trip to Coleman Boundry Road was a victim of our wet spring. The leaders had a wonderful scouting trip early in the week, but on May 7 most of the lower and mid-sections of the road were pelted by hailstones which shredded most of the plants. In spite of this 76 species were seen in bloom. The upper area and the trail to Douglas Falls were not damaged.

Thank you Allen and Naomi Kurinsky for a wonderful day at your wild flower garden on May 11. We saw about 50 species in bloom. Also thanks for the wonderful dessert treats and the drinks you provided at lunch.

The May 15 trip to Tanbark Tunnel was canceled; the leaders were unable to attend. The Blue Ridge South and Buck Springs Nature Trail trips were on May 18 and 22 with pleasant weather and great flowers. The June 5 outing at Byrd's farm was canceled because of rain. The June 12 picnic, however, at Don Herrman's was on a sunny, hot day with a cool breeze blowing across Don's hilltop. A short flower hike was taken by 17 members after which all 35 enjoyed a wonderful buffet.

The June 19 trip to Craggy Gardens was quickly changed to a Bee Tree Gap trip when participants were greeted by cold, winds and fog. They briefly botanized the edges of the parking lot and the beginning of the trail before heading to the lower elevations of the Craggy Gardens picnic area. Before lunch was over it began to rain, so everyone headed for home and warmer temperatures.

The Grassy Ridge Mine Overlook trip on June 26 was a stand-out with 70 species found. Among them were two flowers we seldom see, forked catch-fly (Silene dichotoma) and tassel rue (Trautvetteria carolinensis). They also saw turk's cap lilies in bloom which is very early for this species.



The walk on the lower loop of Holmes State Forest on July 10 was an education in fruits and seeds; most of the plants along this trail through the forest flower in the spring. The meadow at Haywood Gap on July 17 was somewhat disappointing. Fly poison blooms had already changed from white to green. Many of the blueberry and other shrubs are beginning to take over the wildflower slope. On the other hand Bee Tree Gap, on July 24 was its usual spectacular self. At this time in July the phlox is usually at its peak, but this year the coreopsis and brown-eyed susans took over and turned the meadow to gold. The nodding onion also was a stand-out. The July 31 trip to the NC Arboretum was held under threatening skies. No one got wet and the group was rewarded with a couple of seldom seen species -- yellow-fringed orchis and bunchflower (Melanthium virginicum).

As we head into the fall flower season it will be interesting to see how the hot weather has affected the flowers both in terms of numbers and beauty.

#### BOOK REVIEW by MARY ELLEN LINDLEY

In case you haven't heard, another one of our own has written a new book. MOUNTAIN YEAR is Barbara Hallowell's latest.

An easy going year round nature ramble in our familiar mountains. It opens windows a crack on all manner of things seen, overlooked, wondered about. From vultures to slime molds, bits of information emerge to engage and challenge the reader. Descriptions and processes are presented simply and with a minimum of scientific vocabulary.

Written with a light touch and enhanced by clear, sometimes whimsical, color photographs, it invites the general reader but seems made to order for newcomers beginning to explore the mountains. Leaders of "youth nature groups" should also find it a helpful resource, with its full index and unobtrusive cross references and bibliography.

To Barbara's many friends in the Western WCBC, in whose formation she played a key role, this type of book comes as no surprise. Members know full well her eager questing spirit on the trail and off.



ROSES ARE RED, ETC. .... Dick Smith

One of my father's many hobbies was the hybridizing of bearded (German) irises. Although I could not appreciate the patience with which he waited for the years to pass until he could see what he had wrought, when the time came I was always impressed--especially when he had been able to produce a new and unusual color.

I was aware that the name "iris" was Greek for "rainbow" and was given to this flower because it seemed to come in just about every imaginable hue. Inevitably this led me to ask why he never tried for a pure red one. His response was to say that it would be futile, for Nature seems to have decreed that any given flower might have two of the primary colors but never a third. Thus, he explained, there can be blue irises and yellow irises but never a true red one--nor, for that matter, a blue rose or a yellow morning glory. Asked why this was so, he merely shrugged, but I was pretty sure that if it was written anywhere he probably would have managed to find it.

Decades later, I posed this question to a group of Club members at a Learn-and-Share session hosted by Nan Morrow, but still failed to elicit an explanation. We had a lively discussion, but mostly it centered around the definition of a primary color, with the scarcely concealed objective of discrediting the premise itself, thereby making the problem disappear.

Now it has popped up again in, of all places, that virtuoso of newspapers, the *Christian Science Monitor*, which has a new department for readers who are looking for answers to perplexing questions. Their reply to one Ed Cook: "We are raising the white flag on this one. We talked to botanists at Harvard University, Boston University, Boston College, and even tracked down a specialist in India, but no one could help. If you know the answer, please let us in on it."

The *Monitor* is anxiously waiting to hear from a member of the Western Carolina Botanical Club at "The Readers Ask", c/o The Home Forum, One Norway Street, Boston, MA 02115. And by all means share a copy of your letter with the Editors of *Shortia*!

COMFORT ON THE TRAIL on a botany trip depends on our actions and attitudes toward the pests that confound us. Fortunately, we usually hike in mountain areas which present few pest problems,---black flies in spring where rapidly running streams exist, sometimes mosquitoes, and occasionally ticks (though we rarely see them until we return home and find them on our person). Now and then other blood-sucking flies annoy us. Few people know that we can avoid much insect annoyance simply by wearing white or yellow clothing and avoiding navy blue, dark reds and black. Bees and wasps will visit us more often if we dress like a flower or improve ourselves by smelling like a rose. Be aware of your color and aroma.

WILD FLOWERS OF THE SOUTHERN MOUNTAINS, RICHARD M. (DICK) SMITH

1998. University of Tennessee Press. Knoxville, TN (262 pp., 600 colored photographs by author, pictorial key, glossary, bibliography, index. ISBN 0-87049-992-0. Library of Congress Number OK122.3.S55).

Dick is a noted and published botanist whose knowledge of Smoky Mountain plants is legion. This book, printed in Italy contains 600 colored photographs that Dick personally took for this book. It is surprising to note that all of the flower and plant photographs are in sharp focus, well-lighted, and nicely framed. Dick's photographs have brought the flowering plants of our area into our homes.

One-half of the species covered in the book are shown in color. At least one species in each genus is included. Each species has the following treatment in the catalog: Scientific name, synonym when needed, common name when available and/or flower, its habitat and its phenology. While some of the entries are more comprehensive than others, all contain the essential information for field identification. Be sure to read and reflect on the "asides" that are sprinkled throughout the catalog. These notes are bonuses for the reader, and cover the history or uses of selected species.

A unique, pictorial-floral key focuses the reader's attention on the petals: their shape, color, number, and organization. This user-friendly key as well as the keys and summaries within the catalog refer the reader to the correct place in the catalog. And this leads to the magnificent plates.

My highest recommendation! The very best Southern Appalachian wildflower book. Support your local book store and our local botanical author. The book is \$26.45, including tax.

THE GIANT AND THE PYGMY.....ELTON HANSENS

The Giant was more properly called Lactuca canadensis or wild lettuce and the Pygmy was technically Diodia teres or buttonweed. As we walked the trail our attention was drawn to a towering plant, now with hundreds of seed heads smaller but similar to those of dandelion. A few flower heads still adorned the plant. We were so taken with the plant that we returned with a measuring tape another day and determined that the giant had grown to 13 ft. in this single season.

The discovery of the pygmy, on the other hand was accidental when one of us glanced down and saw pink flowers 1/4 inch long on a small somewhat sprawling plant. It was easily identified as buttonweed.



# FOREST TREES .....ALINE HANSENS

The black walnut, Juglans nigra, is a rapid growing American hardwood; an introduced tree in this area but likely to become fully naturalized. It thrives in deep rich moist soils and is found over much of the eastern United States but is somewhat less common in the mountains of North Carolina where it is known to occur up to 3800 ft. In size it may reach 100 ft. or more with a diameter of 2 to 3 ft. It grows singly or in small groups.

## BLACK WALNUT

The black walnut belongs to the family Juglandaceae along with its close relative, the butternut or white walnut which is less common in this area. The latin name Juglans is a contraction of Jovis glans which refers to the nut or acorn of Jupiter. Nigra refers to the black bark, rich brown wood or shell of the nut. The Indians in central NY called it "dent-soo-hwa-no-ne or round nut.

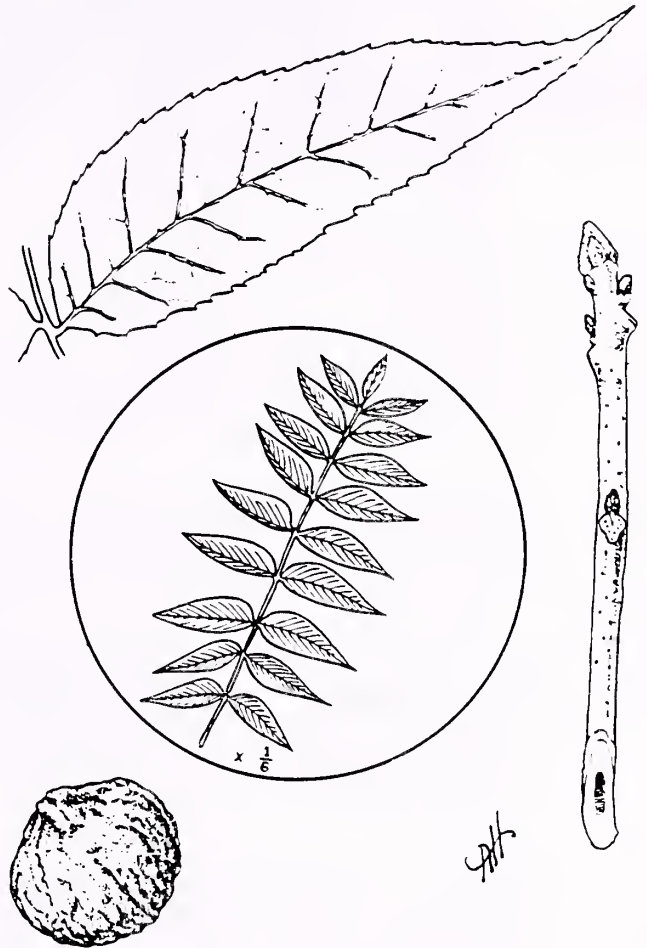
The dark green compound leaves are alternate and nearly two feet long with 15 to 23 oval toothed, long pointed leaflets which turn a clear bright yellow in the fall.

The flowers, both staminate and pistillate, appear on the same tree during April or May. The staminate, formed on the previous years growth and the the pistillate, in groups of 2 to 5 catkins, on the ends of the new growth about the time the leaves are half grown.

The fruit matures during September and October and is a dark brown, hard, woody nut covered with a thick yellow-green fibrous husk. The sweet, edible nut meats are prized by squirrels and the distinctive flavor is a taste treat for many people.

In the winter black walnut is distinguished by its dark, deeply grooved bark, stout twigs and large gray downy terminal buds.

The black walnut has soft, brown, easily-worked wood that is stronger than white oak. It has been used since earliest American history for fine furniture and ranks as America's foremost cabinet wood.



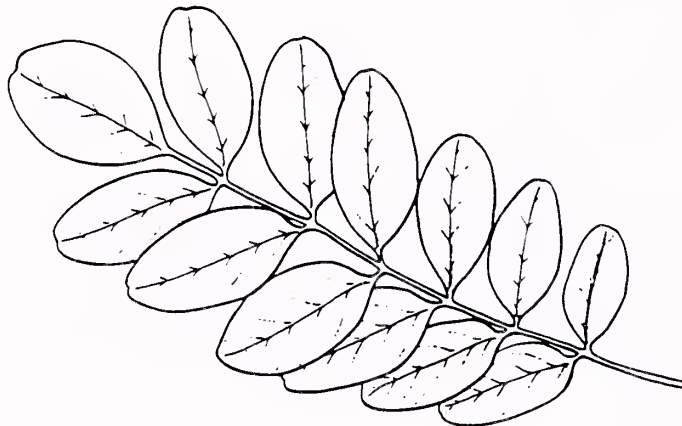
Black locust trees have been receiving considerable attention by concerned members of our Club. Over large areas mature trees look like they have been exposed to a blow torch and stand out in the forest. There is concern that many trees are dying or at least suffering greatly. On virtually all of these trees some new leaves have been produced as the season has progressed. This is not the first time that black locust has suffered such damage.

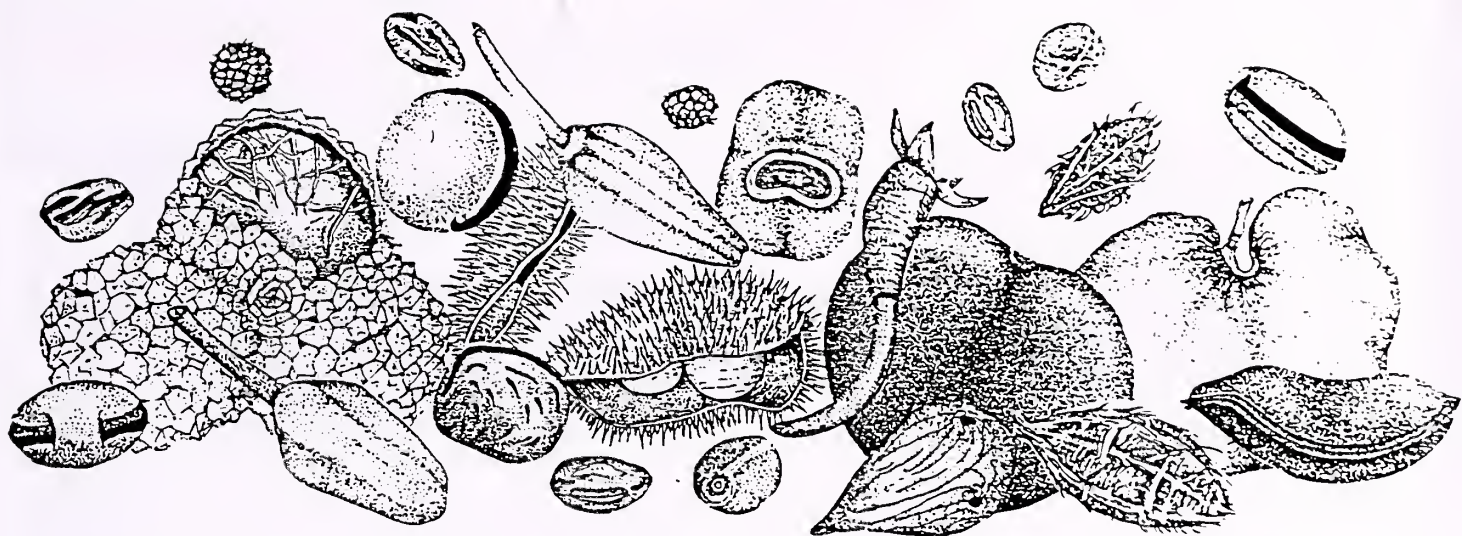
On page 91 of Arthur Stupka's Trees, Shrubs, and Woody Vines of Great Smoky National Park. (Univ. Tenn. Press) we find, "For a number of years prior to the record-breaking cold weather of February 1958 (when the minimum temperature on the mornings of Feb. 17, 18, and 19 was 11, 13, and 9 degrees respectively) the black locusts in the park and vicinity were plagued by a small beetle, the larvae of which subsisted on the chlorophyll in the leaves. So abundant were these insects that mountainsides where black locusts prevailed turned brown in early summer. Since this extensive infestation was not apparent after 1957, it is assumed that the low temperatures in February 1958 proved to be a natural control of these beetles."

These beetles seem to be a major problem today, so let's look a little further at the beetle. Borror and DeLong in An Introduction to the Study of Insects, p.342 present these facts succinctly---"Leaf-mining leaf beetles are 4-7 mm in length, elongate, and peculiarly ridged. Most of them are leaf-mining in the larval stage, and some are rather serious pests. Xenochalepus dorsalis (Thunberg), an orange-yellow beetle with a broad black stripe down the middle of the back, is a serious pest of black locust. Its mines are oval or irregular areas in the leaves. A tree may be defoliated when these insects are numerous."

There is no question that these leaf-mining beetles are working against black locust trees in our area but we can also say, "There are other factors involved that are not well understood". I learned this statement from a professor who frequently ended a lecture with these words.

I think the large population of Xenochalepus dorsalis will crash one of these years and the severe problem will disappear.





NOTES FROM WHITE SQUIRREL.....CHARLES R. GUNN

Betty and I spent a long weekend in Greenbelt, MD. We had the opportunity to visit our old homes in Greenbelt and Annapolis as well as to visit the FDR memorial in Washington and some of the Smithsonian Museums. We both agree that the FDR memorial is impressive and well worth the trip to Washington.

On Monday I worked in the USDA/ARS seed herbarium on problems I was having with my newest project: Seed-fruit morphology at the family level. I was celebrating the first draft of the first 100 families to study.

The good news is that Joe Kirkbride informed me that our typescript covering the seed-fruit morphology of faboid legumes will be into the USDA editor about August 27. The typescript is over 2,000 pages. We also met Leslie who is preparing the glossary plates and is scanning all of the plates into a computer so that a CD-Rom disc can be distributed.

During July we found about one-half dozen new species for the Deerlake flora. But more about these discoveries in the next column.

ADD TO MEMBERSHIP LIST

Reinstate: Robinson, Anita, PO Box 417, Flat Rock, NC 697-7494

Change of Address:

Blaha, Millie, 13 College Row, Brevard, NC 28712-3155. 885-2424

Buck, William R., NY Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY 10458-5126.

Caldwell, Ed 172 Macon Ave., Apt. 4, Asheville, NC 28801  
253-6932.

Saby, John & Mary 10 Quail Trail, Hendersonville, NC 28792  
696-2501.



S H O R T I A

VOL. XX, No. 3.

AUTUMN 1998

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE WESTERN CAROLINA BOTANICAL CLUB.

Editors; Elton J and Aline Hansens   Distribution; Ruth Hoerich

Please submit articles, "Members Comments". notes, etc. for the next issue by November 7 to Aline Hansens, 125 Far Horizons Lane Asheville, NC 28803.

SHORTIA

c/o Ruth Hoerich

215 Newport Road

Hendersonville, NC 28739



-----  
FIRST CLASS  
-----

William Buck  
New York Botanical Garden  
Bronx NY 10458-5126



2  
69  
20  
4

# SHORTIA

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
WESTERN CAROLINA BOTANICAL CLUB

WINTER 1998



LIBRARY

NOV 23 1998

NEW YORK  
BOTANICAL GARDEN

ELTON and ALINE HANSENS  
Editors

# WESTERN CAROLINA BOTANICAL CLUB - 1998

President:	Don Herrman	Recorder:	Erika Parmi
Vice-President:	Elaine Montgomery	Recorder:	Anne Ulinski
Secretary:	Peggy Ellis	Historian:	Anne Matthes
Treasurer:	Rachel Conway		

FROM THE PRESIDENT.....DON HERRMAN

As I start to write, the breeze has picked up and the leaves are really coming down. What a great month October has been. Every week-end has been clear and dry, ideal for the WCBC. Today along the Pigeon River we enjoyed the best weather Western Carolina has to offer---from taking a group picture at Cold Mountain Overlook to picnicing on the rocks in the river. We even did some botanizing.

As previously forecast, the Scheduling Committee has come together. It is an energetic and enthusiastic group. There will be more trips like the one today. I would like to give a vote of thanks to all of those who help plan these schedules.

I have just walked the dogs (the cats didn't make it) down to the meadow. This year of benign neglect and lack of rain has been good for moss. However, the ladies tresses arrived on time but not as plentiful as in the past. The asters came in abundance, especially along the creek, where they are still hanging on.

As you check your current schedule, please make a note of the annual meeting (January 15, 1999). There are important items to be discussed. Our annual dues is one of them. Your participation will be appreciated.

Thank you! Don Herrman

## NEW MEMBERS IN WCBC

ARNETT, PATRICIA 616 Erkwood Dr., H'ville, NC 28739 696-0823.

DODGE, HATHA L. 1A Spring Lake Drive, Horseshoe, NC 28742-9688  
(828) 890-1634.

FLEMING, ELLEN D. (Mrs. Robert E.) 101-C N. Ridge Dr., Asheville, 28804. (828) 258-3946.

JONES, NYLA JO May-Oct. 640 Little River CG Road, Pisgah Forest, NC 28768. Winter 2759 Gulf to Bay Blvd., Lot 127, Clearwater FL 33759.

NICHOLS, ANNE R. 406 Spanish Oak Lane, H'ville, NC 28791. 697-2834.

PEELER, DUDLEY F. & ELIZABETH 40 Dogwood Lane, Brevard, NC 28712.

SMITH, HELEN M. 311 Jordan Rd., Brevard, NC 28712. (828) 883-4946.

TAKARO, TIMOTHY & MARILYN 12 Westchester Dr., Asheville, NC 28803. (828) 254-2085.

## Reinstated

SCHMIDT, CHRISTINE 2549 Williamson Creek Rd., Pisgah Forest, NC 28768. (828) 877-3070.

EDITORS: In this 25th year of the WCBC we dig in the files and reprint the minutes of the 1st meeting---MARCH 27, 1973.

Acting president Joe Schatz opened the March 27th meeting with a proposal that a name for the newly organized botany group be selected. From the ensuing discussion evolved the name Western Carolina Botanical Club, which was voted upon and accepted.

Joe Schatz read suggestions for the purpose of the club:

1. For the study, enjoyment and appreciation of the plants of Western North Carolina in their natural environment.
2. For the collection and compilation of information and data on the plants of WNC and the dissemination of this to other interested persons.
3. For the education of interested persons in the enjoyment and appreciation of wildflowers and other plants.

Most of these purposes are to be carried out by means of field trips. It is also possible the club may become involved in environmental and political issues in due time, if they involve plants that should be saved.

The subject of dues was introduced, and it was concluded that charge of \$3.00 per person per year would cover necessary costs of mailings, information sheets and the like. The fiscal year started March 1st.

It was decided to hold one formal meeting per year, this possibly with a program. At this time officers for the coming year will be elected. Occasional informal meetings will be held as needed. The purpose of these meetings will be:

1. To stimulate interest
2. To review trips
3. To hold programs during times of bad weather.

Reviews of trips will be done by a person assigned for this job.

Club officers, nominated by a committee comprised of Gordon Tooley and Harvey Krouse, were elected as follows:

President - Lincoln Highton  
Vice-President - Gordon Tooley  
Secretary-Treasurer - Barbara Hallowell

At this time the meeting was turned over to President Lincoln Highton. Proceedings continued with a discussion about committees. There are to be five. Two will be active immediately:

1. Field trips - chairman, Harry Logan
  2. Publicity - chairman, Joe Schatz
- The three others will develop as the club progresses;
3. Programs
  4. Education
  5. Records

It was agreed that riders in cars to and from field trips should pay the drivers 20¢ per mile. Harriet Corwin offered to help with driving people to or from field trips or meetings. The next planned field trip is April 2 to Facolet Falls. Harvey Krouse will investigate possibilities for a trip into the Green River area.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara S. Hallowell, Secretary

Here's another little gem to help bring awareness to one of my missions in life - to give the lowly dandelion it's due.

Bright little dandelion  
Downy yellow face,  
Peeping up among the grass  
With such gentle grace;  
Minding not the April wind  
Blowing rude and cold,  
Brave little dandelion,  
With a heart of gold.

Meek little dandelion,  
Changing into curls  
At the magic touch of these  
Merry boys and girls.  
When they pinch thy dainty throat,  
Strip thy dress of green,  
On thy soft and gentle face  
Not a cloud is seen.



Poor little dandelion  
All gone to seed,  
Scattered roughly by the winds,  
Like a common weed.  
Thou hast lived thy little life,  
Smiling every day;  
Who could do a better thing  
In a better way?

(Author unknown)

While I'm giving out dues, I want to give Dick Smith his -  
We owe the Smiths a great big thank you for Dick's wonderful book -  
"WILDFLOWERS OF THE SOUTHERN MOUNTAINS" - THANK YOU DICK.

#### NEW WCBC FIELD TRIP IN 1999

At the Program Schedule meeting October 28 it was disclosed that a former Givens Estates resident has generously invited a group of WCBC members (not to exceed 20) to enjoy spring flowers along a 1 mile private road on her 350 acre farm in southern Madison County.

Several Givens Estates residents have previously visited the farm and know that this promises to be a very interesting and worthwhile botanical experience. WCBC members check your 1999 Program Schedule when it is published and make your reservation with a leader promptly if you wish to be included.



## RECORDER'S REPORT FOR AUGUST TO OCTOBER 1998.....ERIKA PARMİ

The hot, dry summer weather continued into the fall. Dan Pittillo of Western Carolina University predicted an extra colorful and late autumn. Although many of us thought it had been too dry to produce wonderful and brilliantly colored foliage, Dan Pittillo was proved correct. I hiked and drove into the woods as much as possible to enjoy the season. Shame on those of you who did not take advantage of the sunny weather! The mountain ash berries were plentiful and the best that I have seen in several years.

On August 7 the Elk Pasture Gap hike produced 37 species in bloom, one of which was pale corydalis (Corydalis sempervirens) which we seldom see. On August 14 the Frying Pan Gap group found that most of the expected flowers were past their prime. They, however, discovered a colorful and huge patch of pink earth lichen. The trip to Pinnacle Mt. is usually a hot, humid one, but August 21 was a comfortable day with bright sunshine. The plants on the dry, rocky outcrops were obviously in distress from the drought. The fern-leaved false foxglove and the thread-leaf gerardia, however, were outstanding. The fame flower, to our disappointment, was already in fruit. On August 28 the Daniel Ridge Trail was lined with lush poison ivy (apparently not bothered by the drought!), but we found 38 species in bloom along its borders and we did not lose any members to the ivy!

On September 11 the recorder for the Lake Issaqueena trip noted the dry weather had affected many of the plants. The Parkway South trip on Sept., 18 did not produce as many species as usual, but the group did not travel down Rt. 215 because the roadside had been mowed. The Jackson Park fall trip, in my opinion, is always more interesting than the spring or summer trips. This time the porcelain berry (Ampelopsis brevipedunculata) was added to our plant list for the first time. It is a rare, introduced vine.

Over 20 members enjoyed an absolutely gorgeous day on Whiteside Mt. This was the first fall trip on which we failed to find a few late sand myrtle blossoms. All the rest of the October field trips were held on beautiful sunny days. the colorful foliage along the McCall Cemetary Loop, the Asheville Botanical Garden, and the East Fork of the Pigeon River were enjoyed by all. The highlight of the Oct. 16 picnic at Holmes State Forest was Bill Verduin's presence. We were all delighted to see him again. Good food and a blazing fire in the fireplace were enjoyed by all.

Did you ever wonder...What you should do if you see an endangered animal eating an endangered plant?

The release of WILDFLOWERS OF THE SOUTHERN MOUNTAINS by our own Richard M. Smith inspired me to make a mini-study of my own---to list all the flowers along my 150 foot driveway. The book came out too late for me to check the early spring flowers such as Iris verna, Viola blanda, V. pedata and V. sororia, but I added them to my list anyway.

In June my most showy flowers were butterfly pea (Clitoria mariana) along with many flowering spurge (Euphorbia corollata) and wild sensitive plant (Cassia nictitans). Rattlesnake weed (Hieracium venosum), a couple of Hypericum species, H. punctatum and H. hypericoides, Small's ragwort (Senecio anonymus) and downy rattlesnake plaintain (Goodyera pubescens) all made their appearances between May and July. The purple flowered hairy bedstraw (Galium pilosum) was the most surprising find for me. I had never noticed its flowers before.

In August I found three bush clover (Lespedeza) species.---the creeping L. repens, the trailing L. procumbens and the wand-like L. intermedia. I enjoyed the blooms first and then the goldfinches dined on the seeds of several sunflower species (Helianthus atrorubens, H. microcephalus and H. resinosus).

I'll have to wait until next fall to struggle with the goldenrods. I was away much of September when some of them came out. The only one I tentatively identified was early goldenrod (Solidago juncea) which was out in mid-August. It had a reddish stem which was not mentioned in Dick's book, but the rest of the characteristics fit.

I had an amazing total (to me) of 38 species plus flowering shrubs that are not covered in Dick's book. I know there are more flowers to be found, so here's to next spring! Thank you, Dick, for the pleasure your book gave me.

#### IN APPRECIATION.....THE EDITORS SPEAK.

In SHORTIA Vol. 14, No. 2 Erika Parmi published the first of 25 Recorder's Reports she has written for SHORTIA. They contain a wealth of information about when and where and what we see on our trips.

No, she did not take all of the hikes but she has played a major role in planning field trips, arranging for trip recorders and summarizing the individual trip reports. The Editors of Shortia wish to thank Erika for her leadership in the WCBC. She certainly is a major force in assuring our WCBC success. THANKS ERIKA!!!

# FOREST TREES

.....ALINE HANSENS

Among the several species of hickory found in NC, SHAGBARK HICKORY is perhaps the most common and easily identified with its shaggy bark and ovate fruit. Along with the walnuts, hickories belong to the family JUGLANDACEAE.

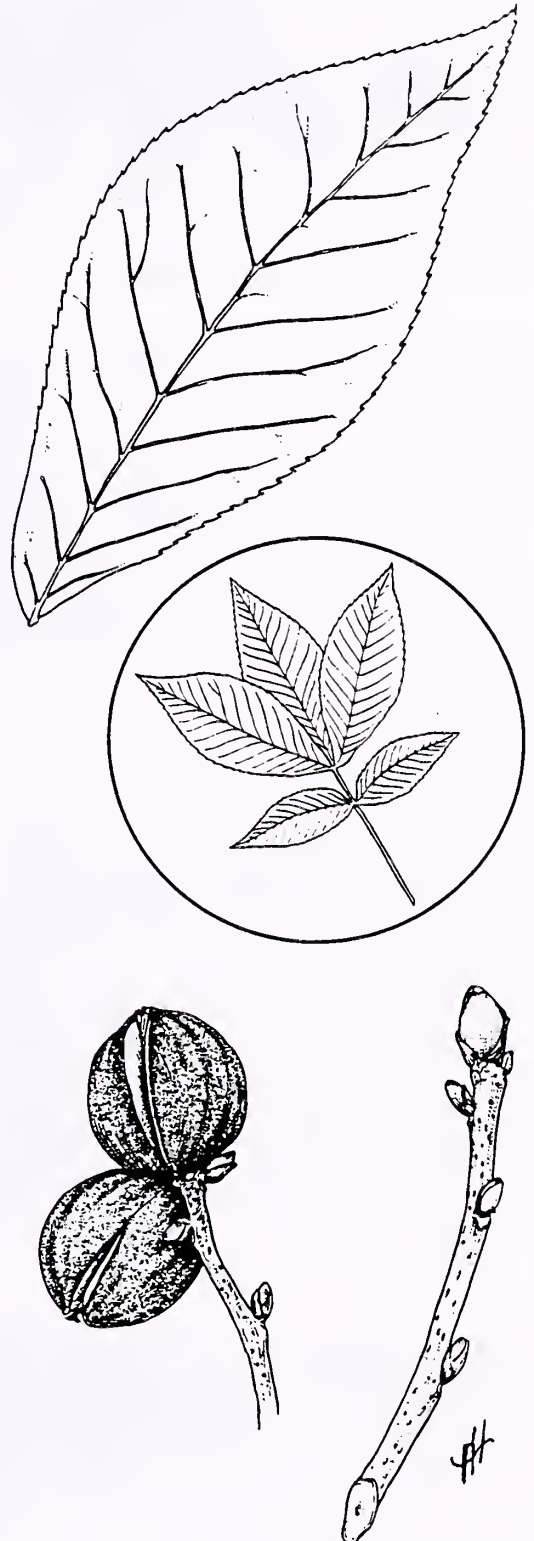
Young shagbark hickories have smooth, firm, light gray bark that separates into thick plates about a foot long. These plates curl outward at both ends giving mature trees a very rough, shaggy trunk.

This rugged, picturesque tree is found in most of the eastern states and may reach a height of 120 to 140 ft. While it is fond of bottomlands and pastures it also grows at elevations up to 2000 ft. mixed with oaks and other hardwoods. Commercially the wood is hard and strong but not durable in contact with soil and is subject to boring insect attack.

The leaves are compound and alternate with 5 to 7 leaflets which are sharply pointed, have serrated margins and are sessile.

In May or June male catkins appear in drooping spikes 4" to 6" long developing in leaf axils of the previous year. At the same time the short spikes of female flowers develop on new growth and, if fertilized, during the summer produce semi-spherical fruits described as ovate, giving rise to the name "ovata". With the frosts of October the fruits ripen and the thick outer husk splits into 4 sections revealing a single, white, hard-shelled nut. Have you ever tried to crack a hickory nut? A voice of experience told me to use a vise (gently) and then pick out the sweet nutmeats. What a reward--the squirrels can't have them all!

## SHAGBARK HICKORY





# BLUEBERRY OR HUCKLEBERRY?

by Dean Crawford

What's the difference? For several years I've been asking local folks, especially berry pickers and sellers, what a huckleberry really is. There were a variety of answers all the way from "just two names for the same thing" to "the little hard redish ones are the huckleberries while the big fat juicy bluish ones are true blueberries." What's a fellow to believe? So, as my Daddy used to say, "When in doubt, read the directions."

Petrides (Field Guide to Trees and Shrubs, Houghton Mifflin, 1958) speaks of huckleberries as "similar to the closely related blueberries...the fruits are small blue to black berries (red in one species), generally in lengthened clusters and usually edible." Usually? How much help is that? He does give a bit of a clue in reporting that they do not "have twigs densely covered with fine warty speckles as in the true blueberries." So I looked at a number of blueberry twigs. Yeah, I guess I might be seeing some "warty speckles," but it's not always evident. Even on the same plant some twigs appear to be basically smooth and some have teeny warts..., maybe.

Borrowing "the bible" (Radford, Ahlers & Bell, Manual of the Vascular Flora of the Carolinas, UNC Press, 1968) from LaVerne Pearson, I got a typical lesson in researching something common in such an encyclopedic source. They show huckleberries as a whole different *genus*; not *Vaccinium*, as are blueberries, but *Gaylussacia*! Ah, Ha! Then, after a lengthy description of sizes of various parts, variety of color of corollas, etc. they get down to it, to wit: "Often confused with *Vaccinium* from which it may be readily distinguished by the **ten large bony pyrenes and by the presence of resinous glands on the underside of the leaves.**" (Emphasis added.) Now, I can easily check for resin spots under the leaves, but what the heck are "pyrenes?"

Further searching reveals: a pyrene is "The nutlet in a drupe; a seed and the bony endocarp." Then, a drupe is "A fleshy, usually 1-seeded indehiscent fruit with seed enclosed in a stony endocarp." Great! Not I have two more new words to define. Well, it turns out that indehiscent means "not regularly opening, as a fruit or anther." (So why didn't they just say 1-seeded fruit?) And an endocarp is the "innermost layer of pericarp." Here we go again. Pericarp is defined as "the wall of a ripened ovary." Finally! Words I understand!

Radford goes on to list five *species* of *Gaylussacia* but only one, *ursina*, which might be found in our region and then only at high elevations. Further, he indicates that they generally have ten seeds, or pyrenes, while we all know that blueberries have lots more than that. Conclusion: We're probably not going to see true huckleberries, except just possibly a patch in a wooded and high elevation location. In such circumstances, a quick look on the underside of the leaf for resin spots should reveal any presence of *Gaylussacia ursina*. Whew! I think I'll just relax and enjoy the pie. *Bon appetite.*

A #10

We congratulate Dr. Dan Pittillo, professor of Biology at WCU on being the 1998 recipient of the Elizabeth Ann Bartholomew Award presented by the Southern Appalachian Botanical Society. He is a good friend of the WCBC and has assisted our club and its members in many ways and on many occasions.







# NOTES FROM WHITE SQUIRREL.....Charles R. Gunn

I would not have believed it - but our 2,000-page typescript went to the USDA/ARS head editor on time, has been assigned an editor, and is being edited! But alas, a problem--Who is going to pay for the plates for printing.

Summertime joys: Finding dodder: The parasitic flowering plant that resembles golden threads was just up hill from fire hydrant 18 on DeerLake Road. I believe it is Cuscuta gronovii and is parasitizing our "beloved" (it must be because we have so much of it as a roadside plant) sericea lespedeza. The Brevard city road crew mowed our roadsides, so the dodder probably was not able to set seeds. By the way, dodder is now considered to be in its own family, Cuscutaceae and not in the Convolvulaceae, the morning-glory family.

And then there is the news I gave my neighbor. A front yard weed is a new species for Deerlake. It is a prostrate plant somewhat like carpetweed (Mollugo verticillata) and purslane (Portulaca oleracea). But this species was Ludwigia palustris in the evening primrose family (Onagraceae). Unfortunately this species does not have petals! It had to be controlled where it was growing, and it was, but I know where there are other plants.

A new species has somehow found its way to the pipeline cut between Stone Drive and White Squirrel Lane. It is Agave (Agave virginica) in the Agavaceae. Though not a native of our area, it is a widely planted species. I am not sure that there is a seed-bearing plant in Deerlake. Could seeds come with the mulch that was used in seeding the slope?

I am working on an article about a major problem plant that has a great economic potential for our tobacco farmers. Any idea about what this new crop plant could be? Plant breeding has made it possible to again grow this species in the United States.

S H O R T I A

VOL. XX, No. 4.

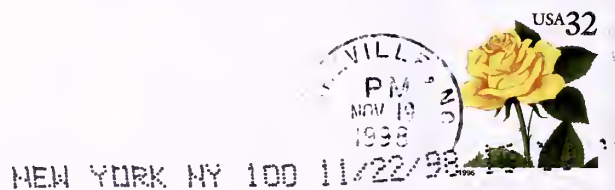
WINTER 1998

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE WESTERN CAROLINA BOTANICAL CLUB

Editors: Elton J and Aline Hansens   Distribution: Ruth Hoerich

Please submit articles, annual reports, notes, etc. for the next issue of Shortia (Vol. XXI, No. 1) at the Annual Meeting of WCBC, January 1999.

SHORTIA  
c/o Ruth Hoerich  
215 Newport Road  
Hendersonville, NC 28739



NEW YORK NY 100 11/22/98

-----  
FIRST CLASS  
-----

\*\*\*Library  
Attn: NEW YORK Botanical Garden  
Bronx NY 10458-5126